

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 INR-05 PRS-01 IGA-01 NSC-05

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 L-01 SP-02 INRE-00 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8466

INFO USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 4673

LIMDIS

STATE PASS AID/PHA/FDRC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: HO, SWEL

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR HELICOPTERS

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 4661 AND 4634

1. ON OCTOBER 30, I HELD PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE U.S. GRANT OF \$5,000,000 FOR HONDURAN RECONSTRUCTION. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE INSPECTORS TODD AND GORCEY AND MR. STANTON ANDERSON WERE PRESENT. MEDIA ATTENDANCE WAS LARGEST TO DATE, WHILE MOST QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS WERE FAVORABLE, THE "HELICOPTER SYNDROME" SURFACED STRONGLY AND PERSISTENTLY AND WITH A DETECTABLE UNDERTONE OF HOSTILITY. ONE REPORTER IDENTIFIED AS AN AP STRINGER HAMMERED AWAY WITH SIX VERSIONS OF THE SAME QUESTION OF WHY US IS "REFUSING HELICOPTER ASSISTANCE." THE FACT OF THE LARGE GRANT, WHICH IS OF FAR GREATER IMPORTANCE TO THE COUNTRY, WAS OVERSHADOWED BY THIS EMOTIONAL ISSUE.

2. I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT THE HELICOPTER ISSUE, HOWEVER EXAGGERATED, IS EVIDENTLY ERODING THE OVERWHELMINGLY
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FAVORABLE USG IMAGE PREVIOUSLY PROJECTED BY THE HONDURAN

INFORMATION MEDIA. FURTHER DELAY CLEARLY IS EXACERBATING
THIS DETERIORATION OF THE U.S. IMAGE.

3. I BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT WE CAN WAIT NO LONGER FOR
AN OAS DECISION, IF THAT IS THE PROBLEM, AND I RECOMMEND
IMMEDIATE USG APPROVAL OF TWO HELICOPTERS PLUS CREWS
TO REMAIN IN HONDURAS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE WEEK. I WILL
REQUEST DIRECTLY FROM CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ AN AGREEMENT
TO THIS TIME LIMITATION.

4. I AM MOST ANXIOUS FOR A RESPONSE TO MY PREVIOUS
QUERIES AS TO INSTRUCTIONS UNDER WHICH LOCAL OAS
REPRESENTATIVE IS OPERATING.
SANCHEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, HELICOPTERS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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